

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Sakae ISHIKAWA, et al.

SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION

FILED: Herewith

FOR: METHOD OF AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING RACK OPERATION, METHOD OF AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING MULTISTAGE RACK, ARTICLE CONVEYANCE AND STORAGE DEVICE, AND COMPUTER PRODUCT



## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE/RELATED CASE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information:

## REFERENCES

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

## RELATED CASES

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

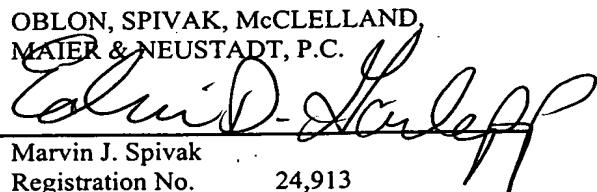
## CERTIFICATION

- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

## DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

- Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Form PTO 1449 (Modified)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY DOCKET NO. 207187US2	SERIAL NO. 09/848,764
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT Sakae ISHIKAWA et al.	
		FILING DATE May 4, 2001	GROUP 3653

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,694,638	12/2/1997	Yuichi MARUYAMA et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	AO	2000-264337	9/26/2000	Japan (with partial English translation including English abstract, claim 1, and paragraphs 0025, 0027, 0046, 0066 and 0067).		X
	AP	11-348985	12/21/99	Japan (with English abstract the concise explanation of the relevance of this document is included in the present specification at page 1, line 24 through page 3, line 1).		X
	AQ	11-290551	10/26/99	Japan (with English abstract the concise explanation of the relevance of this document is included in the present specification at page 6, line 2 through page 7, line 5).		X
	AR					
	AS					
	AT					
	AU					
	AV					

## OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AW	
	AX	
	AY	
	AZ	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached
Examiner	Date Considered	

\*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.